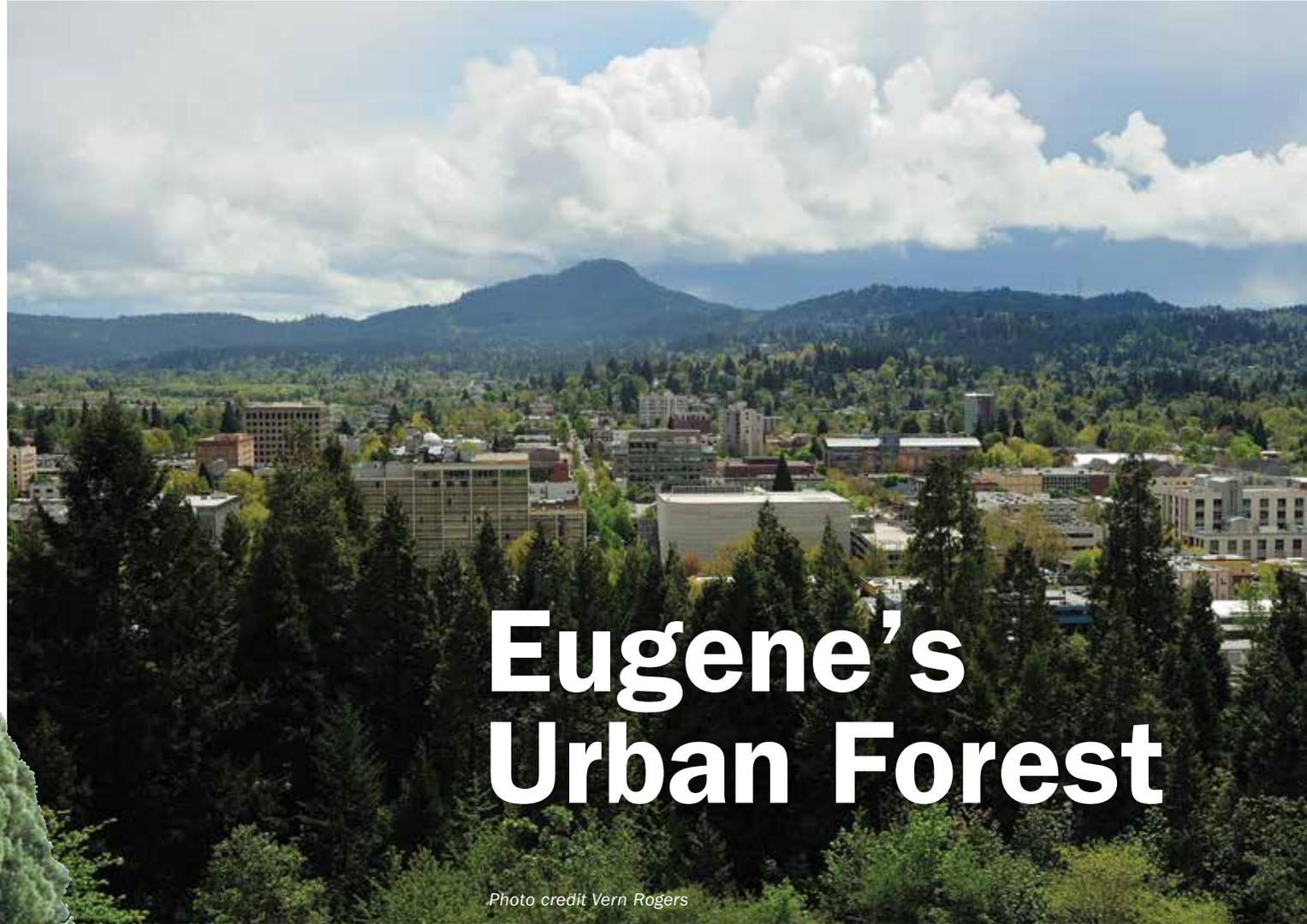




Parks &
Open Space



Giant Sequoia



Eugene's Urban Forest

Photo credit Vern Rogers

  @EUGparks
eugene-or.gov/urbanforestry

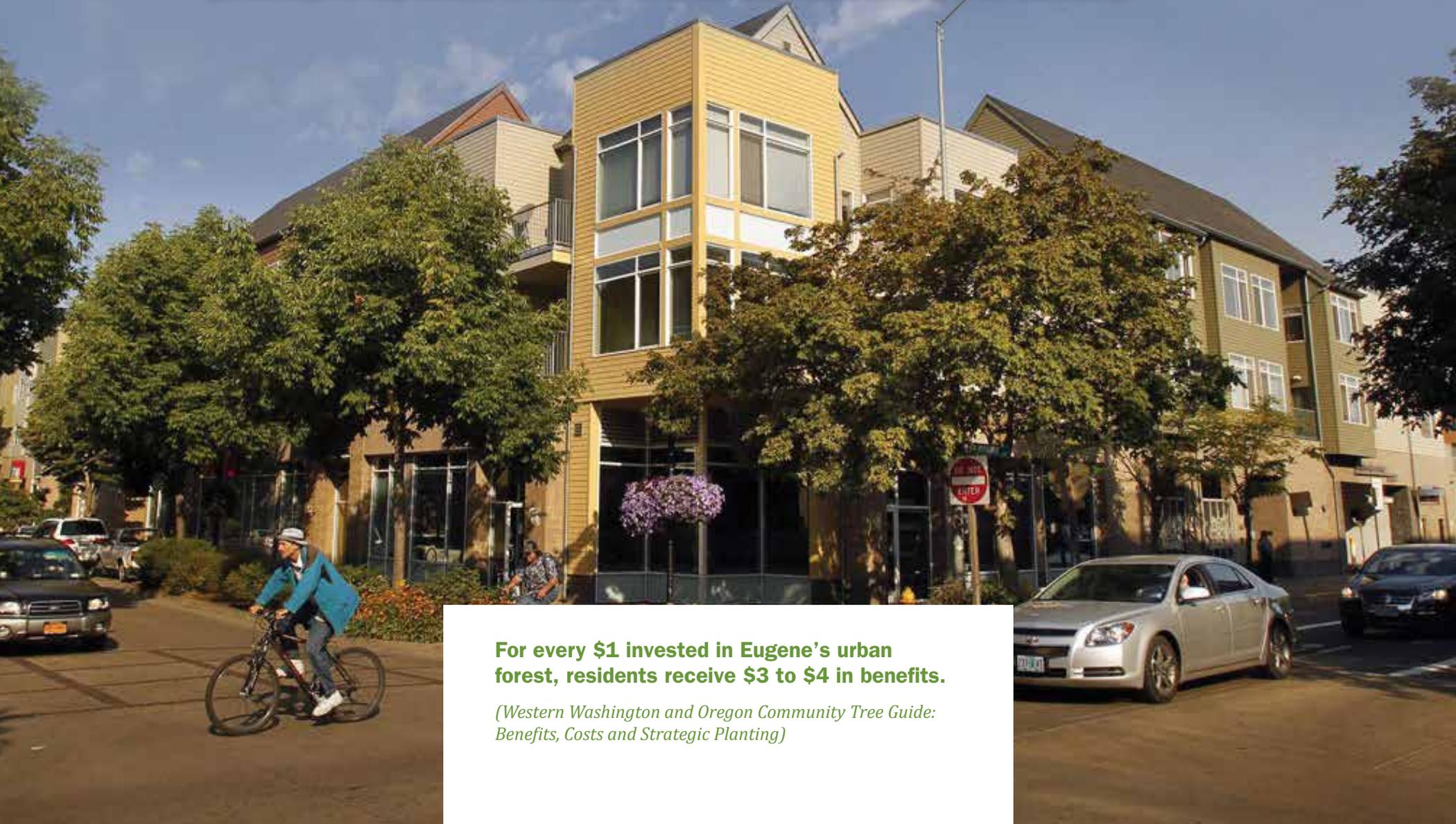


Parks & Open Space

A Vital Investment in Our Community

The City of Eugene's urban forest, including all publicly and privately-owned trees, provides essential services and benefits to our community. Far beyond their aesthetic value, trees offer significant economic, environmental and social benefits. Although there are certainly costs involved with planting and maintaining trees, the net benefits that trees provide for a community far outweigh these costs.

With 100,000 public trees in its care, the City of Eugene's Urban Forestry team relies on important partnerships to help steward our urban forest for the health and well-being of our community.



For every \$1 invested in Eugene's urban forest, residents receive \$3 to \$4 in benefits.

(Western Washington and Oregon Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs and Strategic Planting)



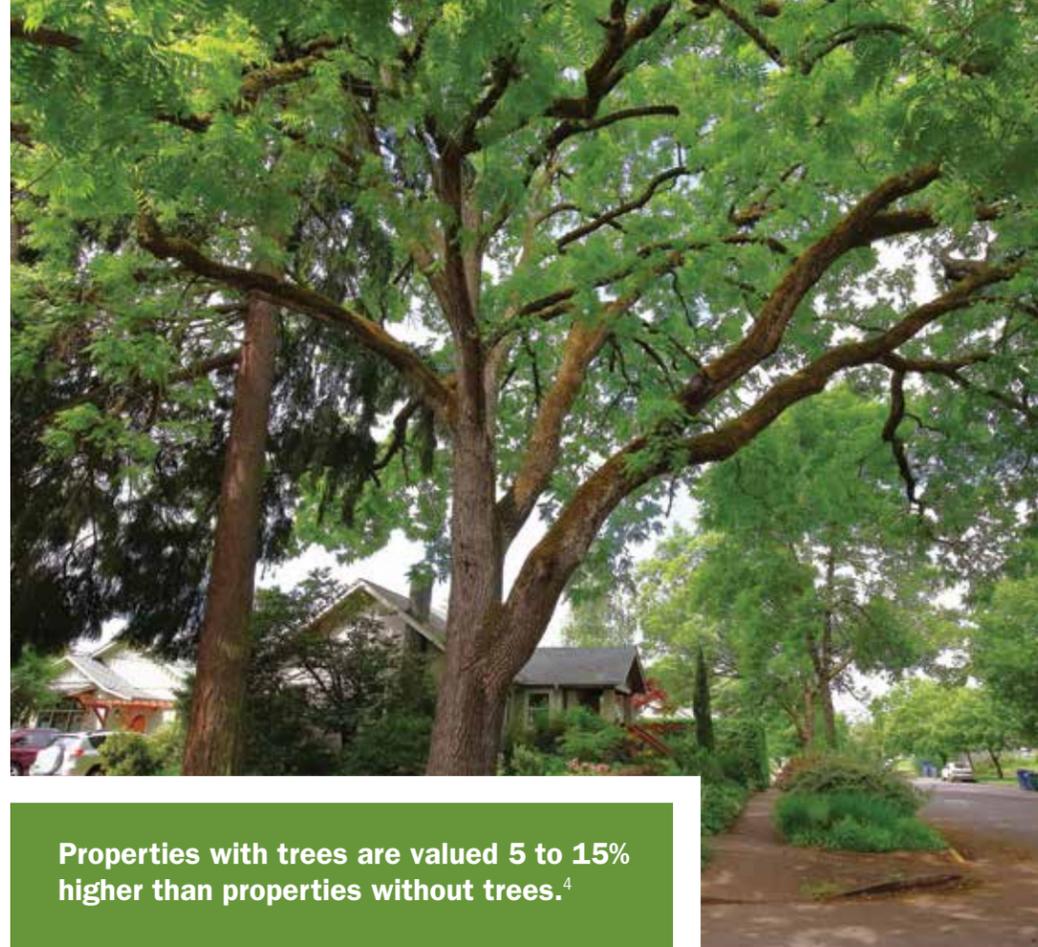
Benefits of Eugene's Urban Forest

Economic Benefits

A healthy urban forest is one of the only municipal capital investments that will appreciate in value over time, according to ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. Trees help:

- Increase property values
- Reduce heating and cooling costs
- Increase revenues in shopping districts
- Lower street maintenance costs—paved surfaces shaded by trees have a longer life span

Trees can reduce cooling costs by 30% and heating costs by 20 to 50%.³



Properties with trees are valued 5 to 15% higher than properties without trees.⁴



Upcoming Projects

The City of Eugene Urban Forestry team aims to plant more trees to take full advantage of these benefits. Future goals and projects include:

Increase Canopy Coverage

From 2014 to 2016, Eugene's city-wide tree canopy coverage decreased from 25 to 23% due to significant winter storms. Seeking to restore our urban forest, the City of Eugene and its partners strive to plant 1,000 trees in 2018. The "right trees" (storm resistant, low maintenance) will be carefully selected for the "right place."

Reduce Heat Islands

The City of Eugene in 2016 conducted a study with Portland State University to identify areas within the city that are 10 to 20 degrees hotter than other parts of the city, called "heat islands." The city is using this data to strategically plan shade tree plantings that will reduce the heat island effect—reducing temperatures and energy use, improving air quality, and protecting public health.

2021 Carbon Reduction Project

The City of Eugene is working with its partners to plant 2,021 Giant Sequoias by the time Eugene hosts the 2021 World Outdoor Track & Field Championships. Giant Sequoias, the largest tree on Earth, consume remarkable quantities of carbon dioxide and help reduce the effects of climate change.

Environmental Benefits

Our urban forest can help mitigate harmful environmental issues and promote a healthy ecosystem. Trees help:

- Improve air quality
- Improve water quality
- Lower air temperatures and reduce the heat island effect
- Prevent erosion
- Reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide
- Shelter wildlife

Large shade trees can reduce local temperatures by 5 to 10%.¹

An urban forest of just 10,000 trees can retain approximately 10 million gallons of rainwater per year—decreasing stormwater runoff and helping to keep harmful pollutants out of waterways.²



Apartment buildings with high levels of greenery had 52% fewer crimes than those without any trees.⁵

Social Benefits

Trees provide a wealth of social benefits to community members. Trees help:

- Improve physical and mental health
- Reduce noise pollution
- Calm traffic and reduce accidents—tall and closely spaced trees help give a perception of speed and also forewarn drivers of approaching curves
- Lower crime rates—greenery helps soothe temperaments, and trees tend to attract more people and positive activity to spaces which deters criminal activity

1. Arzamassova, E., Lerner, J., & Peterson, C. (2003). *The Economic Benefits of Urban/Suburban Forestry*. Brown University Center for Environment Studies.
2. Center for Urban Forest Research, *Is All Your Rain Going Down the Drain? Look to Bioretention—Trees are a Solution*.
3. National League of Cities Sustainable Cities Institute [http://www.sustainablecitiesinstitute.org/topics/water-and-green-infrastructure/urban-forestry]
4. Center for Urban Forest Research: Pacific Southwest Research Station (2005), *Save Dollars with Shade: A Community Tree Planting Solution to Conserve Energy*.
5. Kuo, F.E., & Sullivan, W.C. (2001). *Environment and crime in the inner city: Does vegetation reduce crime?* Environment and Behavior.